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The Post's "Real Concern"

Now that Rowland Evans and Robert Novak have had their say on "Stretching the Doctrine of Executive Privilege," [March 21 Post column], I finally realize where those of us who uphold this presidential right have gone wrong.

It is now clearly evident that the real concern, of Post editorial writers and syndicated columnists who oppose the President's action, is not the President's *right* to evoke the privilege but the harm he is doing to *himself* by doing so.

This is terribly reassuring. For a while, there, it really looked as though The Post was piqued because evocation of the privilege prevents a parade of White House people before those Hill witch-hunters who provide The Post with front page stories and juicy editorial filler on slow news days.

It is also very decent to worry about the President's "political danger," his "tenuous position," and the resultant "increase (of) speculation about White House Watergate involvement." Surely, if there were no political dangers in the presidency; no presidential positions that were tenuous; and nothing that gave rise to speculation—Rowland & Robert & Katherine & Philip would have to play to an empty house.

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